President—.The question covers a wide field involving a laborious search.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—The questions relating to those items which are not very old can be answered.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—It involves a laborious search of the old records. We have no registers to know the number of officers from each constituency.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—If it is only for the last one year, can it be easily collected?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—No constituency accounts are kept.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—It can be got from the Taluk or from the Village accounts.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—It is all laborious.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—Since we represent a constituency, can't we get all this information? Basing upon these facts, we have to find something else to satisfy the constituents.

President.—Let us pass on to the next question.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—Am I to believe that these answers will not be supplied to me even afterwards?

President.—We will try to collect.

Mr. I. E. Ambookan.—I can press it afterwards.

The Report of the House-hold Arts and Cottage Industries Committee.

325. Sreemati T. Madhavi Amma.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Report of the House-hold Arts and Cottage Industries Committee?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The Report will be placed in the Council Office for a month for reference.

The defalcation in the Trichur Municipal Council.

326. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any defalcations in the Trichur Municipal Council in 1100;

(b) the names of the officers who were responsible for the same;

(c) the amount involved; and

(d) whether it was not done with the knowledge and instigation of the tax clerk?

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(e) Was it not with the knowledge of the tax clerk that the Companies Tax Bill Book was issued for the 1st half of 1100?

(f) Was the security amount of the tax clerk adjusted towards the credit of the bill collector? If so, why?

(g) Has the tax clerk remitted in office any amount during the period of his suspension?

(h) Were there other defalcations also in the year, and if so, who were the officers concerned, and how were the cases disposed of?

(i) Is it a fact that the bill collectors were dismissed, while the tax clerk was let off with suspension? If so, what are the reasons for the differential treatment?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—(a) There were certain cases of temporary misappropriation of Municipal collections.

(b) Primarily, bill collectors V. A. Joseph and T. R. Narayana Ayyar, and to some extent, the tax clerk E. Narayana Menon.

(c) Bill collector Joseph—Rs. 168—2—5.

,, Narayana Ayyar—Rs. 486—4—2.

(d) The conduct of the tax clerk warrants a suspicion.

(e) The bills, presumably, could not have been issued without the knowledge of the tax clerk, although he denies it.

(f) Yes, for his negligence.

(g) Yes, in respect of certain short collections found out in audit subsequently.

(h) No other cases have been noticed.

(i) Yes. In the case of the tax clerk there was no direct evidence of his actual connivance and complicity, but his conduct was highly suspicious, whereas in the case of the bill collectors who were dismissed, they had actually misappropriated Municipal funds.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—A clear case of misappropriation of money. Was the Municipality justified in doing things in such a shabby way?

President.—Please let us understand your supplementary question. What is the point on which information is wanted?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want to know why they were not prosecuted.

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President.—They are cases where prosecution may be necessary, but in this case the Government dispensed with them and satisfied itself with a mere dismissal.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know whether these punishments are awarded with the unanimous approval of the Council?

President.—Of course.

Non-official Members of the Legislative Council and State functions.

327. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any principle or definite policy is being followed by the Government in inviting non-official members of the Legislative Council and other non-officials in the State to Government or State functions, and if so, what is the principle or policy followed, and whether any distinction is being made between those residing in towns like Ernakulam and other parts of the State, and also whether distinctions of caste or creed are being observed?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—There is no hard and fast rule on the subject. Government exercise their discretionary powers in such matters.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—My question has not been answered. I understand there is no hard and fast rule. My question is not whether there is any rule, but whether there is any definite principle or policy.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—It is not possible to have any definite principle or policy in a matter like this.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Am I to understand from the answer that no definite principle or policy is being followed even with regard to caste and creed?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—Caste and creed don't come in at all.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have put a question which refers to caste and creed, and I wait for an answer.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The question of caste and creed does not come in.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There have been complaints that invitations have not been sent to some prominent men, because they belonged to certain castes.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—They may take action and complain to the Government.

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